

The HARWELL NEWS

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June 1997



Parish Council

The May Meeting was the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, and the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman was the first item on the agenda. Mr David Levey was willing to stand again as Chairman and was proposed by Mrs Alison Dixon and seconded by Mrs Margaret Turner. There being no other nominations Mr Levey was re-elected as Chairman. Mr Alan Walker was then proposed as Vice-Chairman by Mr Peter Cissell and this was seconded by Mrs June Blissett. There being no other nominations Mr Walker was re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

The membership of the sub-committees for the coming year, which includes all those on the Parish Council, were agreed as below. The Council Chairman is ex officio a member of all committees.

Environment and Planning Committee:

Mrs Margaret Turner Mr Brian Muford
Mrs Rosemary Mulford Mrs Alison Dixon

Lands and Recreation Committee

Mr Peter Cissell Mr Alan Walker
Mrs June Blissett Mrs Anne Fisher
Mr Jim Mulford

Publicity Committee

Mr Martin Ricketts Mrs Margaret Turner

Council representation on other bodies remains:

Harwell Charities Trustees	Mrs R. Mulford
A.E.A. Nursery School	Mrs A. McIlroy
	Speed
Harwell Village Hall Trustees	Mr M. Ricketts
	Mrs J. Blissett
A.E.A. Liaison Committee	Mrs M. Turner
Winterbrook Youth Club	Mrs A. Fisher
Management Committee	
Parish Transport Representative	Mrs A. Fisher
Harwell Primary Sch'l Managers	Mrs J. Blissett

Under reports from District and County Councilors, Mr Colin Lamont reported that, following his election to the County Council, he had been nominated for the OCC Environment Committee and the Highways sub-committee. He also advised the Council of a forthcoming meeting to discuss road safety in rural villages; Mrs Anne Fisher agreed to attend.

A request from the Harwell School Summer Playscheme for assistance with running costs was received, and after discussion, it was agreed to make a grant of £150. The Parish Council wishes to thank all those who give their time to make this Playscheme possible.

At the April meeting of the Council, access to the Recreation Ground from adjacent properties was discussed, in particular where a gate had been put in the

Parish Council's fence. The Council wishes to safeguard the security of adjacent properties and does not intend to allow other gates in its fences. But having regard to the exceptional circumstances in this case, the current occupier has been allowed to keep the gate provided it is normally locked and only used for the agreed purpose.

The Oxfordshire Structure Plan includes a large housing allocation for Didcot. Mr M. Ricketts had attended the preliminary meeting of the Examination in Public (EIP) and although the Parish Council hadn't so far been invited to the EIP it was expected they now would be. The EIP is to discuss the issues in the Structure Plan; these do not include the actual location of any development, which is left to the District Councils. The County Council may modify the Structure Plan in the light of the EIP but isn't bound to take its advice.

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Recreation Ground Pavilion at 7.45pm. The next meetings are on 9th June and 14th July. Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk, Debbie Roberts ten days before the meeting - contact her on 820006 (office, answer-phone) or 832727 (home). The deadline for the next newsletter is 27th July.



**HARWELL
OPEN DAYS**
Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 June 1997

An open weekend is being staged at the Harwell International Business Centre for members of the local community, staff and their families to learn more about the activities of UKAEA, AEA Technology and other business tenants. The site will be open from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 June.

On display will be a comprehensive exhibition tracing the evolution of the site over the past 50 years and a preview of future plans, also several working exhibits demonstrating current scientific projects at AEA Technology. Visitors can take a guided site tour exploring the 500 acre site, stopping off at several locations on the way including the partly decommissioned DIDO reactor. Free information packs will be available to take away.

To attend the Harwell Open Days visitors will need to complete an advance registration form which has appeared in the local Herald newspapers on 22 and 29 May, or call 433085 to request a copy. Registration forms must be returned by Wednesday 11th June.

Planning Matters

Notices of Permission:

HAR/588/2 Change of use from agricultural to horse-paddock and erection of shelter and feed-store, land off The Barrow.

HAR/10663/1 Double garage at 3 Kings Lane.

HAR/5149/2 Extension to living room at Milestones, The Park.

Notices of Refusal:

HAR/2459/3 Change of land use from orchard to garden, Thatch Cottage, Abingdon Road, on the grounds that it would be piecemeal development outside a settlement contrary to the Oxfordshire structure plan.

Result of Appeal:

HAR/12326/2-E At Orchard House, Blenheim Hill change of use from agricultural to domestic was refused.

Amended Plans:

HAR/5196/2 Detached house adjacent to Hill Orchard, Blenheim Hill.

New Applications:

HAR/14862-LB Existing flat roof to be covered with pitched roof and replacement of windows at Wellshed Cottage.

HAR/6249/1 Change of use from shop to residential Wicote, High St. for Mr G. Barwell.

HAR/14881 Erection of a double garage at 22 The Park.

HAR/14888 Replace existing Bungalow with chalet-style house Parkstone, Reading Road.

HAR/14892 Single storey extension at 8, Broadway Close

The Royal British Legion, Harwell

Both Harwell Branch and Club have this year won prestigious awards in the RBL National Competitions; both were awarded for proficiency and endeavour throughout the past year.

The Branch award was the *Haig Cup* and the Club award the *Ian Hamilton Cup*. Both were accompanied by framed certificates. As there are in excess of 3000 Branches and over 900 Clubs this is quite an achievement. I had the honour of accepting both awards on behalf of Branch and Club from Vice Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton KCB in front of an audience of almost a thousand RBL delegates and visitors from all over the British Isles and Europe at the recent National Conference held at Bournemouth, where I attended as the Harwell Branch delegate (quite an emotional honour).

Peter Cissell

Branch Hon. Secretary and Club Secretary.

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Harwell Fun Club

Are you a mother or carer at home with a pre-school child? Would you like to come and make some new friends while your child plays with our toys? Then why not come along and meet us one Tuesday?

If you have a young baby, why not visit us on the third Tuesday of the month when the Health Visitor will be available to weigh your baby and answer any questions?

Fun Club meets every Tuesday morning during term time (including half-term) from 9.45 - 11.45 in the Village Hall. We have lots of toys for the children to play with and also provide an activity table each week and a drink and biscuit. You can enjoy all of this for just 80p per family.

Forthcoming events include a photographer coming on June 10th and our summer outing on July 22nd. We will also be meeting informally during the summer holidays - details in the next issue of Harwell News.

We look forward to welcoming you one Tuesday morning.

Rossana Keene (835434) and Caroline Thetford (221139).

Musical fun for
the under fives

Busy Bees Music Group



Harwell Village Hall

on Friday mornings

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01235 521039 for more details.

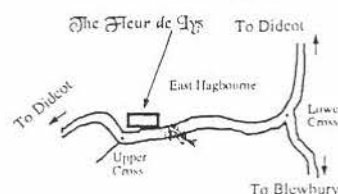
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Cemetery Policies

As reported in the last Newsletter, the Parish Council's policies regarding the Cemetery, made over the years, have now been put in a statement, which is available from the Clerk. The following are the main points:

Burial spaces are only available for:

- those who are resident in Harwell at the time of death
- those with close village connections
- Non-residents if the second burial will be that of a resident of Harwell
- Non-residents in extraordinary circumstances with prior consent from the Council

Graves:

- Headstones must be upright, and not more than 2 foot wide and 18 inches deep at the base
- Only 1 headstone per grave i.e. on 2nd burial updated inscription necessary
- Kerbstones are not permitted

Ashes:

- Only ashes interred (no urns or caskets)
- No ashes in burial plots unless interment is to take place in a used grave space, or interment is in a space reserved for burial of a resident of Harwell
- Permitted tablet of no more than 12 inches by 12 inches to record interment of ashes. Tablet to be flat with no recess.

Plaques:

- These are not permitted for any person/s other than residents or those with close connections to the village.
- A plaque will be permitted even if ashes are not interred in the cemetery as long as the person had close connections with the village.
- It is permitted to reserve a space on the Wall of Remembrance by erection of a blank plaque.

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Women's Institute

Among recent events we heard a talk by Mrs Hazel Goodman which revealed the history of crosswords and how they are composed, and Mrs D Baker held a coffee morning and Bring & Buy Stall, and both hers and her neighbours, Mr & Mrs Cavell's pretty gardens were open for us to enjoy.

On 7th June, Mrs Una Walker is holding a coffee morning from 10am onwards at Tudor Cottage, Burr St., again with a Bring & Buy Stall, and on 19th June Mrs Audrey Cumberland is holding another at 6, Chilbrook, in aid of Sobell House.

On 19th July why not come and hear Roslyn Marshall talking about the Bach Flower Remedies alternative medicine. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month except August, at 7.30 in the Village Hall. Visitors are very welcome - why not join us!

Irene Napper

War Graves

This area of the Cemetery has not been maintained for a few months, but it has now been attended to. Since last summer when the RBL decided it could no longer do the work it has been the responsibility of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. They may be contacted on 01926 330137.

Mobile Library

This continues to visit Harwell on alternate Wednesdays, for the benefit of anyone not able to get to Didcot, or, presumably, even if you can. It is to be found in the Village Hall car park between 3pm and 3.40pm. The next visit is 18th June, then 2nd, 16th and 30th July.



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Harwell Village Hall

The Annual General Meeting of the Trustees of the Village and Freeman Halls was held on Thursday 29 May 1997. The Chairman reported that in his continuing work to upgrade the kitchen of the Freeman Hall, he had revealed an area of rotten timbers which will need to be attended to when the roof repairs are undertaken, hopefully before the onset of winter. As a result of some damage at a recent party, there was discussion of the deposit for party bookings. It was unanimously agreed that the deposit should be separate from payment for the booking, which is required in advance.

The Treasurer referred to the continuing healthy state of the finances but warned that the start of work on the new toilet block would cause serious inroads into Hall funds.

The contractors were due to commence their operations on 3rd June and the work is scheduled to take two months. Steps have been taken to reduce disruption to users of the Village Hall to the minimum possible, to which end a portable toilet has been provided in the car park. The single toilet in the Committee Room will continue to be available. The Trustees crave the indulgence of Hall users during this legally necessary upheaval.

The Trustees are indebted to the Parish Council, the Vale of White Horse District Council, the Oxfordshire County Council and the Rural Development Commission, for generous grants towards the cost of the project, but nevertheless about £6,000 will be required from Hall funds which will necessitate a serious effort at fund raising and a vigorous approach to funding bodies if the essential repairs to the Freeman Hall roof and the upgrading of its heating system are to be accomplished in the Autumn.

The Treasurer, Mr Colin Lamont indicated that with his election as a County Councillor he had decided he would have to relinquish his post. He would carry on until the toilet block work is completed. Mr Trevor Packer undertook to consider filling the office. Otherwise the officers were re-elected as a group as follows:- Chairman - Mr Martin Ricketts, Vice-Chairman - Mr David Edwards, Booking Secretary - Mr Roy Bullock, Secretaries - Mr and Mrs D W Neill.

As well as the aforementioned change with regard to the deposit, there was discussion of the differentials between Village users and those from outside the Parish. The Chairman agreed to propose modified charges on the lines discussed at the next meeting, to be introduced from 1st September. The problem of double bookings has unfortunately not yet been eradicated - the officers will see how this can be improved before the next meeting, to be held on Thursday 17th July.

Secretaries Mr & Mrs D. Neill 834720

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St. Matthew's Bellringers A Ring and Sing weekend

The Bellringers are commemorating the 400th anniversary of the casting of the 7th Bell on the weekend of 28th and 29th June.

On Saturday from 2pm to 5pm the Bell Tower will be open, with tea and cakes provided by the Ringers. In addition, there will be a flower Festival in the Church and an exhibition will be staged in the North Transept.

On Sunday at 11am the Ringers Service will be conducted entirely by the Ringers.

The Millenium

We hope to ring out the Old Year - 1999 and ring in the New - 2000 as we have done in the past, but in addition it is hoped to ring all the Church Bells in the Country at 12 noon on January 1st 2000. In order to achieve this we need to recruit and train 600 new ringers in the Oxford Diocese and 10,000 nationwide.

If you have ever considered learning bellringing, or if you once learned and have now lapsed, why not contact me on 835310, or any of the Ringers, to find out more

Doug Jordan

Food for Thought: The maximum number of changes that can be rung on 12 bells is 479,001,600 - this would take 37 years and 355 days to ring. It has yet to be done!

Winterbrook Youth Club

Monday evenings - Freeman Hall

Juniors 8 - 14 years 6 - 8 pm

Seniors 15 - 21 years 8 - 10 pm

Membership £1 per year. Subscriptions 30p per week

All young people in Harwell are welcome to join Youth Club.

*The Bagg's Tree Buskers
gave a fine performance at
the head of the Feast Procession,
and later in the Recreation Ground*



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Harwell Feast 1997

We couldn't have asked for better weather could we? So the rest was down to us.

A new Feast Committee, under the chairmanship of Lynn Wilkinson, was up at the crack of dawn marking out arenas, connecting P.A. systems, putting up bunting and buttering hundreds of rolls. The Feast was back!

The day's events started with the parade along the Hish Street; Trevor Packer writes below regarding the parade - I'm sure you'll agree the best loved part of Harwell Feast.

Some new events on the field gave lots of opportunity for audience participation - Silverdown Gymkhana, Tug-of-War, Bonny Baby Competition and Pet Show. And well done to the dads who joined their small daughters in the country dancing! The Fun Run was back with a challenging (!) new route.

Many of you rummaged through the Car Boot Sale, visited the popular Craft tent and popped down to the Village Hall to see the exhibitions.

The dog agility displays were much enjoyed and Mr Armstrong's children ran their little socks off for him!

The committee sincerely hopes the villagers enjoyed this year's Harwell Feast Day and thank you all for supporting us,
J.M.

The proceeds are still being accounted but we feel it has been a good year and the Committee now invites bids for funding from the proceeds of Harwell Feast Day. Organisations or Project Leaders are asked to apply in writing to The Feast Committee c/o Janice Markey, 17 Didcot Rd, Harwell, by Monday 30th June. All applications will be considered at a meeting of the Committee on Tuesday 1st July.

The Procession

The Committee would like to express its thanks to the four Organisations, The Fun Club, Harwell School, Little Pippins Pre-School Group and Winterbrook Youth Club, who produced such superb floats for this year's parade and to Rowstock Corner Garage for sponsoring them. They would also like to congratulate the Baggs Tree Buskers for their performance at the head of the procession.

Thanks are also given to the owners of the vintage cars and tractors, especially to Mr Read, Mr Langford and Mr Mobbs.



The May Queen, Jessamy Done, aged 10, attended by Ruth Wilkin and Zanya Cross, 11. Picture by Janice Markey.

The parade would not be the same without the continued presence of Mr Barker's pony and trap, with the May Queen and her attendants, for which we are most grateful. They would like to thank Mr Ted Lay, Mr Dennis Lay and Mr Allen for again supplying the tractors and trailers for the floats and thanks are also given to the drivers.

Trevor Packer

Harwell Feast S

UKAEA (main s)
REJ Systems
Nightingale Assoc
Lansdown Est
White Horse Pr
Chase Chari
Crabtree & Ev
Rowstock Gar

The impressive float depicting the Earth, by Little Pippins Pre-School. The 'farewell' refers to the Comet Hale-Bopp.



Results - Results - Results

Children's Fancy Dress

0 - 5 years:

- 1st Hamilton McGregor-Lambert - *A Ladybird*
- 2nd Abigail Keane - *A Dutch Girl*
- 3rd Clare-Louise Butler - *Miss Saigon*

6 - 11 years:

- 1st Elna Wilkinson - *A Bowl of porridge*
- 2nd Naomi Nickerson - *A blackbird*
- 3rd Adrian McIlroy Speed - *A wolf*

Bonny Baby Competition

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|----------|
| 1st | Chester McGregor-Lambert | 8 months |
| 2nd | Meg Saunders | 4 months |
| 3rd | Katherine Michael | 9 months |
| 4th | David Gosling | 5 months |

Results - Results - Results

Pet Show

Class:

- | | | |
|------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| Birds | 1st | Emma Soffe |
| | 2nd | Angela Tappin |
| | 3rd | Kylie Jones |
| | 4th | Kylie Jones |
| Rabbits | 1st | Miss Hiller |
| | 2nd= | Natalie Brisland |
| Pigs | 2nd= | Shaun Berry |
| | 3rd | Eleanor & Joseph McDonagh |
| | 4th | Janice Markey |
| Hamsters, Gerbils etc. | 3rd | Joanna Brisland |
| Exotics | 1st | Christian Nickerson |
| Best in Show | | Miss Hiller |

Vintage Car Driving

- 1st Don Hayter
- 2nd John Grierley
- 3rd Chris Smith

Photography Competition

Entries for this are open until 30th June - for the best photos taken at Harwell Feast 1997. Judging is by Alan Spence ABIPP. First Prize £15, plus prizes for runners-up. Entry Box at *White Horse Printing*.

Children's Drawing Competition

Simply draw or paint a picture of your favourite event at Harwell Feast. Prizes for all entries. Entry boxes at Harwell School and *White Horse Printing*. Closing date 30th June.

The Committee would like to thank the following for their help on Feast Day:

Dick Pateman, Roy Pateman, Mick Pryor, Mike Dearlove, Norah Dearlove, Kath Luker, Darren Lister, Gavin Bumpass, Tizza, Ollie Roundhead, Ted Lay, Dennis & Sue Lay, Bill & Ruth Woollen, Michael Armstrong, Kath Pearce, Barry Westgate, Pete Davis, Alan Spence, Stuart Lilley, Steve Froud, Jane Soffe, Roger Thetford, Janet Darbyshire, John Wilkinson, Martin Ricketts, Hayley Chapman, Paul Taylor, Ruth Wilkinson, Sam Curran, Bill Allen, Steve Froud, Barry & Tina Jones, Maurice Earl, Peter Fernback, The Crispin, The RBL, The Bowls Club, The Short Mat Bowls Club, Harwell School PTA, Thames Water Utilities, Newbury Building Society, Wallingford Dog Training Club, Silverdown Riding School, Harwell Village Hall and Didcot & District Rabbit Club.

If anyone has been left off this list please shout loudly and we'll mention you in the next edition of HN.



*1st in the older children's Fancy Dress
Elna Wilkinson as 'A Bowl of Porridge'.
Picture by Janice Markey.*

Harwell Primary School

A Day in the life of a Primary School

On Thursday, June 19th we are holding an **Open Day** at Harwell School. Our aim is to give everyone in the village an opportunity to visit the school, look at the work on display around the school, sit in on lessons taking place in our five classes, watch the children and their teachers at work, and gain some idea of how the school works. We are especially keen to give outsiders, who may not have been into a primary school for many years, a chance to find out something of what our particular village school is like. Our idea is not to put on a series of special events but to try to run as normal a day as possible - normal, at any rate, except for the presence of visitors. Michael Armstrong, our headteacher, will be on hand to show you where our various classes are and to try to answer your questions, and you will be welcome to talk to children and teachers wherever there is an opportunity during a lesson. So whether you are parents of children attending Harwell School, or parents of children who used to be at the school, or parents of children not yet at school, or relatives, or friends, or simply interested observers, wondering what life is like in the local school, why not come along and have a look around? You can be sure of a welcome.

Our school day begins at 8.55 am with registration. The first session of the day lasts until 10.30 am when we take a twenty minute break. The second session lasts from 10.50 am until mid-day when we break for lunch. School restarts at 1.00 pm and the afternoon session lasts until 3.15 pm. You will be welcome to drop in at any time during the day and to stay for as long or as little as you like. We all look forward to meeting you.

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Harwell Feast Fun Run, 26 May 1997

Junior (under 16) race, 2.5 miles approximately

position	name	time	age	
1	Paul Dable	15.09	15	1st JM
2	Lee Thornhill	15.30	14	
3	Matthew Jessop	18.55	10	
4	Mark Baker	19.45	15	
5	Seb Spence	20.50	15	
6	David Pace	22.03	13	
7	Craig Merison	22.15	8	
8	Helena Kerswell	24.38	15	1st JW
9	Rhyn Roberts	24.42	8	
10	Christopher Jessop	25.56	7	
11	Stephen Broome	26.06	7	
12	Andrew Davis	26.12	12	
13	Christopher Davis	26.15	10	
14	Kayleigh Douglas	48.26	10	
15	Donna McNeil	48.26	11	

National Bike Week

7th - 15th June

There are several events being put on in Didcot. All these events are suitable for all ages but children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. To keep within the spirit of Bike Week please leave your car at home; parking for some events will be difficult. For general information phone 812247. Events promoted by Didcot Town Council.

Saturday 7th	Five Mile Challenge 2pm Civic Hall Certificate from CTC
Wednesday 11th	Treasure Hunt 6.30 pm Civic Hall Bring pen / pencil + 50p.
Thursday 12th	Time Trials, Phoenix Cycle Club. Details 813571.
Saturday 14th	Orienteering 2pm Loyd Recreation Ground Brasenose Rd. Bring pen / pencil + 50p.
Sunday 15th	Something for Everyone 11.30 am Didcot Station Cycle Ride.



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Music in the south Oxfordshire villages.

Those of us fortunate enough to be in Harwell church on a Friday evening in mid-May were treated to a very enjoyable performance by the Amphion Ensemble, in a well-judged programme ranging from Mozart's time to the present day. To be able to hear professional musicians in interesting works, at the modest cost of £7.50, only a few minutes journey from home, in the interesting old church of St Matthew, points up the advantages of local music-making. In our group of villages there is much opportunity for amateur performance, and several groups reach a very high standard, but, when all is said, it is professionals with years of diligent study and instruction who set the standard, and who can provide the best entertainment. With London concerts criticised for high prices and restricted repertoire, local music-making can provide stimulating programs, where performers have the opportunity to introduce audiences to the delights of unfamiliar music, as well as giving considered accounts of the works which have become famous over the centuries. Concert-goers do not always understand the frustration that serious musicians experience when prevented by limited performance opportunities from playing works which they are dying to perform. They love to come to small village venues, where they can make contact with local enthusiasts, and under these conditions they give of their best. However, if this is going to succeed, they need our continuing support. Audiences are of necessity small, and performances are limited by the capacity of churches and halls, but provided there is local enthusiasm and a commitment to attend events when they can be arranged, a series of good concerts can be put on. The message should be clear: If you enjoyed last Friday's concert, or would have liked to come, please look out for the next in the series, in about two months time, and tell all your like-minded friends. We would like to draw audiences from the group of villages including Harwell, East Ilsley, Upton, Blewbury, Compton, Astons, the Hagbournes and Didcot, and we will make an effort to cover this area with our publicity. Please look out for our notices, listen to the local radio news and watch the papers and the village newsletters. David Hopkins, 01235-850181.



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Saturday June 14th, 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Long Wittenham

Tickets at the door: £5 to include a glass of wine
(Children £2)



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NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH

Did You Visit the Vale of White Horse Neighbourhood Watch Caravan at the Feast ?
 Did you meet the Ringmaster Co-ordinator?
 Did you get your bicycle Post Coded?
 Did you get help with your House Security?
 We hope that you did and found the exhibition useful.

Some Seasonal Tips

Do you have any Valuable Ornaments in your Garden? If so you should have them Post Coded and Photographed.

Do lock your house and garden sheds, even if you are only going to be absent for a short time.

Some Reminders

Do you own expensive Antiques?

If you have, do get at least two quotations before selling them.

Do check the credentials of callers such as meter readers.

PLEASE report anything suspicious to the Wantage Control Room (Phone 01235 776000).

Gardeners' Coffee Morning

The Gardeners' Club is holding a coffee morning on Thursday 12th June, from 10am until 12 noon, at Old Brew House, Townsend. There will be a Bring & Buy stall and a raffle; all are welcome.

Harwell Gardens Open Day

This will take place on Sunday 20th July, from 2pm to 6pm. Tickets cost £2 and can be bought on the day at Townsend. If there are any others who wish to open their gardens please let me know, thanks

Adele Harris Blenheim House 835238.

Harwell Gardeners' Club

The garden club normally meets on the first Monday of the month, details of the forthcoming evenings are listed elsewhere. Visitors are always welcome - we are not all seasoned gardeners. If you are just starting out and wondering what to do and wish to know more then come along as we have a question time and advice on what to do when.

*For the garden of your dreams -
consult a professional*

MARY ANN LE MAY

•GARDEN DESIGNS•

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KEOMINDERS

- going away?
- worried about leaving your home unoccupied?
- your cat prefers home comforts to holidays in the cattery?
- your indoor and outdoor plants need care?
- other tasks needing attention during your absence?
- feeling guilty about asking neighbours and relatives yet again?

YES ?

Then contact us - KEOMINDERS
 0235-520290

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 AT

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AT LAST WE HAVE HAD A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF RAIN.- ENOUGH TO START SEEDS GROWING AND ENABLE HARDY PLANTS TO BE SET OUT IN THE OPEN.

SO THE FIRST SPRING RUSH HAS PAST & WE CAN TURN OUR ATTENTION TO THE TENDER SUCH AS THOSE FOR HANGING BASKETS & CONTAINERS. WE CAN ALSO SOW RUNNER BEANS ETC. STRAIGHT OUT IN THE GROUND AS BY THE TIME THEY COME UP ALL RISK OF FROST SHOULD HAVE PASSED, BUT BE CAREFUL BEFORE PUTTING OUT TENDER PLANTS RAISED IN HEAT. AS THERE MAY STILL BE DANGER OF GROUND FROSTS - SO LISTEN TO THE LOCAL WEATHER FORECASTS - BEING A LONG WAY FROM THE SEA IN ALL DIRECTIONS WE DON'T GET ANY WARMING EFFECT FROM THE WATER AND OXFORDSHIRE OFTEN HAS THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE IN ENGLAND.

WHEN WATER SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED IT IS BEST USED FOR YOUNG PLANTS TO GET THEM WELL ESTABLISHED SO THEY WILL HAVE A GOOD ROOT SYSTEM TO COPE WITH ANY FUTURE DROUGHT.

IF YOU HAVE PLANTED ANY TREES OR SHRUBS SINCE LAST SUMMER THEY TOO SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY FOR WATER & A GOOD MULCH APPLIED WHEN THE GROUND IS REALLY MOIST WILL HELP TO RETAIN THAT MOISTURE.

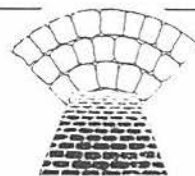
STILL GOT A FEW SEEDS LEFT IN THE PACKET? WHY NOT SOW THEM NOW TO FILL ANY GAPS IN THE LINE OR MAKE UP THE NUMBERS AND THEY WILL HELP TO PROLONG THE FLOWERING SEASON.

HARDY BIENNIALS CAN BE SOWN NOW FOR FLOWERING NEXT YEAR - SUCH THINGS AS WALLFLOWERS (SCENT!) FORGET-ME-NOTS, SWEET WILLIAMS, ICELAND POPPIES AND HOLLYHOCKS. KEEP UP A SUCCESSIONAL SOWING OF SALAD CROPS AND VEGETABLE CROPS SUCH AS LETTUCE, RADISH, PEAS, SALAD ONIONS, SPINACH.

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AUTUMN & OVERWINTERING VEGETABLES - CHICKORY SPROUTING BROCCOLI, WINTER CAULIFLOWERS & SAVOYS SHOULD BE SOWN NOW. TAKE CUTTINGS OF PINKS, PANSIES, VIOLAS, ROCK PLANTS, AUBRIETIA ETC. AT THIS TIME.

ONCE FRUITS HAVE STARTED TO FORM ON TOMATOES GIVE THEM A WEEKLY FEED OF HIGH POTASH FERTILISER AND KEEP THE SIDE SHOOTS REGULARLY PINCHED OUT OF THE CORDON (INDETERMINATE) TYPES. (REMEMBER IF YOU POT UP THE SIDE SHOOTS THEY WILL ROOT & FRUIT VERY QUICKLY - MUCH QUICKER THAN RAISING PLANTS FROM SEED. IF THE PLANTS ARE GROWING IN THE GREENHOUSE YOU MAY NEED TO SHADE THE GLASS TO PREVENT SCORCHING & YOU MAY HAVE WATER SEVERAL TIMES A DAY TO PREVENT FLAGGING.

PRUNE ALL WINTER & SPRING FLOWERING SHRUBS ONCE BLOSSOMING HAS FINISHED, TIE IN ALL CLIMBERS AS THEY GROW AND STAKE ALL TALL GROWING HERBACEOUS PLANTS BEFORE THEY BECOME TOP HEAVY.

PEG DOWN OR BETTER STILL POT UP ANY STRAWBERRY RUNNERS REQUIRED FOR NEW PLANTS FOR NEXT YEAR & HOE OFF ALL UNWANTED RUNNERS.

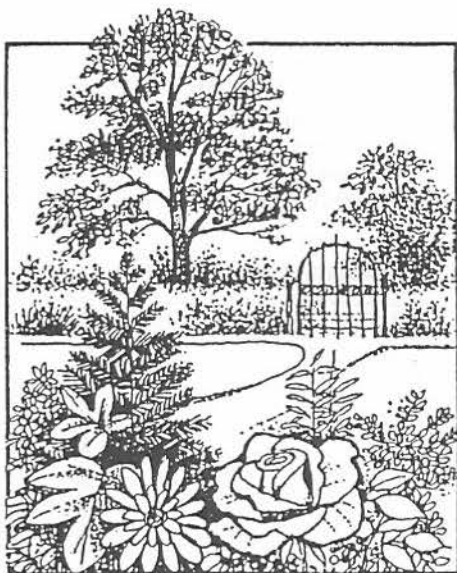
CHECK ALL FRUIT TREES & BUSHES FOR ANY SIGNS OF PEST & DISEASE & TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

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Countryside Events in the Vale

These events are organised by various local groups and individuals. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing and take adequate food and drinks etc. For full details see the leaflet available in libraries etc.

Are You Sitting Comfortably

Sunday 8th June 2pm

Storytelling around Wittenham Clumps with Patrick Ryan (professional story teller).

Meet at The Clumps Car Park

Contact 01865 - 407792

Dragons & Damsels

A close look at dragonflies and damselflies with ecologist Mark Stevenson. No dogs.

Sunday 6th July 2pm

Meet at The Clumps Car Park

Puppet Theatre Barge

Weekends in June, 2.30 and 8pm

Abbey Meadows, Abingdon.

The Hare and the Tortoise, other

Aesop's Tales

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